



## Message from Pastor Bill Vincent

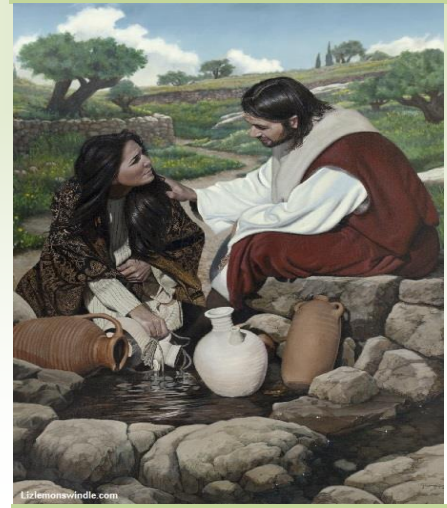
World Day of Prayer, the first Friday of the month of March, is this Friday, March 5<sup>th</sup>. It seems appropriate to me that World Day of Prayer always falls during our commemoration of Lent.

The following guide is offered as a suggestion for how you might celebrate World Day of Prayer. The selected passage comes from the Gospel of Mark, the lectionary gospel focus for this year.

The method of study and prayer outlined in the guide has been used for centuries in the church. Called *lectio divina* (which can be translated as "sacred reading"), it has four parts: *lectio*, *meditatio*, *oratio*, and *contemplatio*. Since all that Latin may be a bit hard to decipher, maybe it would be easier to identify the four parts by saying "READ about it, THINK about it, PRAY about it, BE about it."

In preparation, find a time and a place to devote your attention to this "sacred reading." And may God bless you through the power of God's Word.

*In Christ,  
Bill Vincent*



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### Prayer and Study Guide for World Day of Prayer

**Mark 11:27-33** -- "By what authority are you doing these things?" the religious leaders ask Jesus. 'These things' probably refers to various aspects of his ministry, but also, more immediately, to his action of cleansing the temple (11:15-19).

#### **READ about it:**

Read the passage over several times, trying to be clear about what is said and done. If you have different translations of the Bible available, use them.

#### **THINK about it:**

Try to put yourself in the story. What do you see? What is the look on the leaders' faces? What does the look on Jesus's face tell you? What do you hear? What do you feel? With whom do you identify in the story? By what authority do you believe Jesus did these things?

Earlier in the gospel, Peter confesses to Jesus, "You are the Messiah!" (i.e., the Christ, God's chosen one). How do you confess Jesus and acknowledge his authority in your life?

**PRAY about it:**

Spend time talking with God in response to the reflection you have done on this passage. Share your hopes and fears. Ask God for the special grace you need at this moment in your life. Thank God for the precious gift of Jesus Christ.

**BE about it:**

Slowly read the passage over again. Finally, spend some time in silence, allowing God to share with you any further insights.

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*Worshiping and serving God, loving, and accepting all*

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**Presbyterian Women upcoming dates:**



The West Cluster PW event scheduled for March 13, is being postponed, to give ladies more time to get their vaccines, and make sure winter is out of the way. The new date is scheduled for Saturday, May 22, and will be held in Sullivan. Hope many of you will be ready to get out for a drive and a great morning and to learn more about the environment in Franklin County and Missouri.

The Giddings-Lovejoy PW Spring meeting will be a 'Virtual' event and is scheduled for Saturday, May 1st. The theme is 'The Human Connection' and someone from the Mental Health Committee will speak. More information will be forthcoming. We would love to see you on this call!

The Presbyterian Churchwide gathering, scheduled for this August in St. Louis has been cancelled. The gathering is now being planned to be a 'Virtual' event and details will be out soon.



**A reminder:**

Prayer concerns can be shared with me via email or phone before worship (preferably by Saturday evening); or you can write them down (legibly, please) on a piece of paper and place them in the basket that will be located near the entrance to the sanctuary.

Pastor Bill

Sunday Worship service will be Streaming live on Facebook on Sunday at 9:00 am. The bulletin will also be available on Facebook and the church website ([www.unionfirstpresby.org](http://www.unionfirstpresby.org)), posted by 8 am Sunday morning.

Link to Facebook: [www.facebook.com/firstpresbyterianchurchunion](https://www.facebook.com/firstpresbyterianchurchunion)

Bulletin can be found here: <http://www.unionfirstpresby.org/church-bulletins/>